

TB Times

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A Note From Dr. Davidson

1999 is the last year of the millennium for many. I happen to side with the year 2000 as a more logical choice. Either way, 1999 will be an important milestone in a number of ways for TB Control in Los Angeles County. This newsletter will see the completion of 10 years of continuous publication. You will be seeing the use of color printing and pictures on a regular basis in the *TB Times*. Most important of all, changes in the structure and mission of Public Health Programs and Services are to be implemented. What impact this may have on Disease Control and Tuberculosis Control in particular has not been determined. One thing remains certain. Tuberculosis will remain a serious and challenging public health threat regardless of the structure or any changes in mission.

The preliminary case count for 1998 is 1301 cases, a 3.3% decrease from 1997. The fact there is a decrease is encouraging. However, this is the third year in a row that the decline has been rather modest compared to the more dramatic decline noted in the years 1993 to 1996. Tuberculosis may be receding into specific subgroups of the population where it remains the same or may be increasing as a problem while much of the population continues to have low and decreasing numbers of cases. In 1997, 71% of all the reported cases in Los Angeles County occurred in the foreign-born. An article elsewhere in this issue of the *TB Times* further defines some of the impact that foreign-born persons have on the incidence of tuberculosis in California. Significant declines have occurred in the homeless and HIV coinfecting populations. The bottom line is that we must be vigilant, evaluate our data, and focus our efforts where they will do the most good.

Cont'd on page 2

World TB Day!!
March 24th

The California Tuberculosis Controllers Association (C.T.C.A.) is encouraging all TB jurisdictions in the state to participate in *World TB Day* which will be observed this year on wednesday, March 24, 1999. This event has been recognized throughout the world for a number of years.

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Conferences

TB Conferences on the first Friday of the month are held in the Andrew Norman Hall of Orthopaedic Hospital, located at Adams Blvd. & Flower Street. The Physician Case Presentations on the third Friday of the month are held at the TB Control Program Office, Room 506A. Participants must sign-in to receive applicable CME credit. Late arrivals of 15 minutes for a 1 hour program or 30 minutes for a 2 hour program will not receive CME credit.

February 5, 1999

9:00-10:15a.m., Ortho. Conference CANCELLED

February 19, 1999

TB Case Presentations/Discussion

Hanh Q. Lê, M.D.

TB Control Program Office, Room 506

February 5 & 6, 1999

"TB, HIV and Primary Care"

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Downtown Los Angeles

February 5th: County DHS Providers

February 6th: Community Based Providers

For more information call Mi Suk Yu-Harlan at 213-351-8196

**American Lung Association
of San Diego and Imperial Counties**

sponsors**1999 March on TB Conference****March 13, 1999****(More details inside)**

TB Control Planning Council

April 16, 1999

(For information, call Sue Gerber at 213-744-6160)

A Note From Dr. Davidson, cont'd

1999 will be the last year that Los Angeles County will receive level funding from our Federal CDC grant. The CDC Cooperative Agreement grants will require a new five-year renewal proposal to begin in the year 2000. We anticipate that a portion of the funds available will be on a more specific competitive basis than in the past. We will need to do a complete reassessment of our TB Control Program as we plan and prepare for the grant proposal we will submit to CDC in October 1999. Our greatest chance for success will depend upon the cooperation of all those concerned about the eventual elimination of tuberculosis from Los Angeles County. There is a lot of work for the months ahead. Start sending us your ideas and proposals!

World TB Day, Cont'd

In September of 1998, sixty key TB advocates from eighteen nations met in the Netherlands to coordinate strategies to promote *World TB Day* and adopted the theme "Stop TB." The coalition stressed the importance of conveying two messages to policy planners and to the public: 1. Tuberculosis is still present and 2. Individuals are still at risk. They recommended that these messages be conveyed in a number of ways:

Attract a celebrity to lead a campaign

Organize an activity or special event

Develop a newsworthy or untold story

Use a symbol or image to show solidarity with patients,

(e.g. red ribbon for AIDS awareness)

The CTCA's Education Committee developed a list of suggested activities which you may wish to consider. By planning early, you may be able to organize one or more of these events, or if appropriate, an activity could be held after *World TB Day* and continued throughout the coming months.

The following are suggested events that can contribute to a successful community awareness campaign. You are encouraged to be as creative as possible in reaching professionals and the community with health promotion/disease prevention messages. Together, we will be able to join forces with other nations in showcasing our efforts to control and prevent tuberculosis as we observe *World TB Day* 1999 in California.

1. Develop and submit a news story on the efforts of your program, highlighting physicians, nurses, health educators, public health investigators, epidemiologists, and community outreach workers in the course of daily work or the management of a difficult or unusual case. Submit these to local newspapers or even the *TB Times*.

2. Arrange for a member of your staff to appear on a radio or television program to discuss the impact of TB in the community.

3. Encourage your local PBS station to air "The People's Plague" or other documentary films about tuberculosis.

4. Present a conference or seminar for the benefit of medical and nursing students or for the private medical community.

5. Arrange for promotional messages to appear on city buses, taxicabs, street banners, billboards, marques, shopping bags, or at movie theaters.

6. Work with your local American Lung Association chapter to furnish informational referral sources about TB and other respiratory diseases at local shopping centers and malls. Include incentive items (key chains, pens, pencils, magnets, etc.) when appropriate.

7. Develop presentations to students at ESL schools on the need for screening and preventive therapy. Offer referral sources to health department clinics. Contact other high risk groups including migrant farm workers and day laborers.

8. Prepare a letter and fact sheet of current epidemiological trends and share with elected officials and members of the public and private medical community.

9. Make a presentation to your local city council members, board of supervisors, or mayor about the need for continued support. Obtain a local proclamation.

10. Organize a community sponsored "Walk-a-Thon."

11. Participate in a community health fair in collaboration with non-profit community based organizations.

12. Set up informational displays or bulletin boards in county health department clinics, city hall, schools, or other governmental offices.

13. Encourage nurses or health educators to make a presentation to health classes at local public schools.

14. Recruit a prominent celebrity figure to promote a public service announcement.

If you are interested in collaborating or need help in developing a program for *World TB Day*, please contact Mr. Bob Miodovski, M.P.H., Senior Health Educator at 213-744-6228.

F.Y.I.

Thanks to Kathryn Koski, M.Ed., for her two years of dedicated service to L.A. TB control. She has transferred to the Florida State TB Control Program as the Assistant Public Health Advisor. Susan Ashkar, M.A., TB Lab Coordinator, will also be missed. She has been promoted to the STD Program. Good luck and farewell to Erika Germany and Luke Saechow on their transfer to CCS. We would also like to welcome back to TB Control Yolanda Martinez-Throgmorton. She will assume the former responsibilities of Mary Baca.

American Lung Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties

sponsors

1999 March on TB Conference

The 8th Annual March on TB Conference will be held at the San Diego Paradise Point Resort. National, State and Local leaders will discuss the

latest advances in preventing, diagnosing and treating tuberculosis. Course topics include: Preventive Therapy, Rapid Diagnostic Testing, HIV/TB, Pediatric TB, TB in the School System and TB Infection Control Issues. Six hours of

CME and BRN credits will be offered. Simultaneous spanish translation is also available. Cost: \$80/Physicians, \$60/Other Professionals. To receive a registration brochure, contact Tam Nguyen at 619-297-3901 or tam@lungsandiego.org

**NEED
TO
KNOW**

Tuberculosis Among Foreign-born Persons in California

At the Fall 1998 CTCA meeting on November 12th and again during the Public Health Grand Rounds on January 14, 1999, Dan Chin, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Epidemiologist for the State TB Branch, presented data on tuberculosis among foreign-born persons in California.

According to Dr. Chin, about 36% of TB cases in California are Hispanic, 75% of which are foreign-born. Almost 38% of California TB cases are among Asians, 95% of which are foreign-born. The three countries contributing the largest number of cases are Mexico, Phillippines and Vietnam. They comprise about 75% of the foreign born cases statewide; the remaining 25% are from 50 other countries.

TB among foreign born, cont'd

A similar analysis of the Los Angeles County TB cases shows 44% are Hispanic, 82% of which are foreign-born. About 32% of Los Angeles County TB cases are Asian 96% of which are foreign born. It is of interest to note that the proportion of LAC TB cases which are Asian has increased from 27% in 1996 to 32% in 1997.

Dr. Chin indicated that immigration trends directly correspond with the incidence of foreign-born tuberculosis. He used the example of older Filipino veterans that were allowed entry to the United States without being screened for TB. He concluded that such movements account for the increased rate of TB among the older Filipino generation in California.



Dr. Chin reported that TB cases among foreign-born Asians have been

leveling off for 5 years. However, following a small decline in 1996, TB is on the rise among California Asians. the number of Hispanic TB cases has declined by about 20-30% since the peak year of 1992.

To reduce tuberculosis morbidity among foreign-born persons in the United States, Dr. Chin proposes that early case finding and treatment as well as effective contact investigation and completion of preventive treatment are among the most important factors. Other measures include improving the testing for TB in foreign-born persons overseas as well as reduction in the number of foreign-born persons entering the U.S. with TB infection.

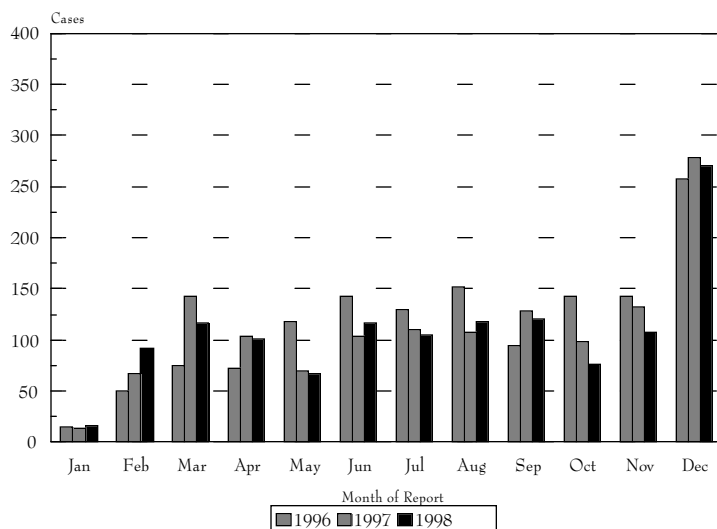
The groups with higher morbidity and at higher risk for TB in California are Vietnamese, Filipino, and Hispanic immigrants, elderly, recent immigrants, and groups with limited access to health care. Dr. Chin concluded that there was a need to support the TB Control program worldwide since elimination of TB in California and the U.S. is not possible without control of tuberculosis in other parts of the world.

Tuberculosis Cases by Health District Los Angeles County, December 1998 (Provisional Data)*

Health District	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997	Year to Date 1998	Year to Date 1997
Alhambra	22	20	100	87
Antelope Valley	4	5	20	21
Bellflower	14	3	45	46
Central	21	33	140	155
Compton	7	13	39	44
East Los Angeles	7	7	30	30
East Valley	7	13	58	55
El Monte	18	22	69	100
Foothill	9	6	28	23
Glendale	8	12	28	44
Harbor	5	6	15	20
Hollywood	26	18	125	114
Inglewood	10	8	66	53
Northeast	16	14	59	68
Pomona	10	23	61	62
San Antonio	9	10	51	58
San Fernando	8	1	30	18
South	8	9	44	45
Southeast	7	5	35	31
Southwest	9	12	61	68
Torrance	10	9	48	36
West	15	9	50	53
West Valley	13	16	72	83
Whittier	7	2	19	20
Unassigned	0	0	8	12
TOTAL	270	276	1301	1346

*The overall yearly percent change from 1997 to 1998 is -3.3%.

Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Tuberculosis Incidence By Month of Report, 1996-1998



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TB Times is a monthly publication to provide information to those interested in TB surveillance and TB Control Program activities. Please forward your articles, comments, suggestions or address corrections to:

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January Topics of Interest...

- ⇒ TB/HIV Conference, February 5th & 6th
- ⇒ WorldTB Day!! March 24th
- ⇒ TB Among Foreign-born Persons
- ⇒ American Lung Association: 1999 March on TB